is to ensure that key essential commodities are made available at reasonable prices to consumers in all parts of the country throughout the year. The Central Government has, therefore, assumed responsibility for procuremet and bulk allocation of six key essential commodities namely, rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oil, Superior Kerosene Oil (SKD) and CIL/Soft Coke to State/UTs for distribution through PDS. Besides, the State Governments/U.T. Adminstrations are free to include , on their own, additional items of mass consumption for distribution through PDS, based on local consumer needs and preferences. Several States/U.Ts. are reported to be distributing pulses, tea, iodised salt and soaps through Fair Price Shops in Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) areas.

Infrastructural Investment by State Governments for Export Promotion

1475. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minsiter of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments are investing/have to invest a substantial amount of resources for setting up infrastructure towards promoting export-oriented industries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Governments do not get any share of the revenue collected on the basis of export earnings;

(c) if so, whether this arrangement acts as a disincentive for State Governments in terms of export promotion; and

(d) if so, what measures are beign contemplated by Government to remove this anomaly and realise the full export potential of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Investment on infrastructure to promote industries including export oriented units are made both by the Centre and the States in sectors that appertain to them.

(d) to (d) Export earnings accure to the exporters and the foreign exchange equivalent thereof serves to strengthen the nation's balance of payments. States stand to gain from encouraging export oriented units through the linkages these offer to technological upgradation, foreign investment, expansion of employment and heightened competitive ability.

सुपर बाजार के श्रमिकों हेतु वृद्धावस्था पेंशन योजना

1476. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:** क्या **नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार सुपर बाजार के सभी श्रेणियों के श्रमिकों को वृद्धावस्था पेंशन देने की योजना को लागू करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सुपर बाजार के महाप्रबंधक ने इस योजना को लागू किए जाने का विरोध किया है;

(घ) क्या यह योजना पूर्णतः केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा प्रायोजित की जाएगी या सुपर बाजार द्वारा भी इस योजना में वित्तीय सहयोग दिया जाएगा; और

(ङ) यह योजना कब तक कार्यान्वित किये जाने की संभावना है?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता है।

Coffee Cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

1477. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coffee Board has taken any steps to increase coffee growing in the Moredmilli area of East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether any assistance has been offered to Andhra Pradesh to increase